



Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future

Springfield Public Schools

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To Whom It May Concern:

We have had the pleasure of having Charlotte and her dog Foreman working at our school during this school year. Charlotte and Foreman began working at our school in November and continued through April. Both of them have volunteered for a total of 19 hours.

We originally contacted Charlotte because one of our students had cancer and the diagnosis from doctors revealed that he would most likely pass away during the school year. As a result we wanted the students who were in the life skills class with him to be able to meet Foreman and Charlotte ahead of time in order for them to make a connection with both of them. When this student did indeed pass this school year it helped that the students already had a connection to both of them, and they were able to help us in comforting the students in this class. In addition Charlotte's connections allowed her to bring in other trained dogs and their handlers for our care room. Charlotte and Foreman's experience in dealing with crisis situations showed during this incident. Foreman loves children, and is at ease with large groups. He is calm and allows the students to hug him, and get close to him if needed. I have never heard him bark, rough-house, or be inappropriate with the students. In addition Charlotte's experience with education and working with students individually or in a group setting is also beneficial.

In addition to helping us in the above mentioned area Charlotte would also sit with Foreman in our hallway and greet students as they returned from lunch. Many students would come up and pet Foreman and talk to Charlotte. The students have mentioned that they have enjoyed seeing them on our school campus. Foreman once again is always professional and the fact that he is surrounded by a large group of students doesn't intimidate him in the least.

We also used Foreman with our R.E.A.D. program. There were several students who because of various reasons were determined by our staff to need some time each week to meet with Charlotte and Foreman. The students were able to work on reading a book out loud, talk to Charlotte and pet and relax with Foreman. The mixture of these three greatly helped these students and was an enjoyable time that they looked forward to.

We were grateful for the help both Charlotte and Foreman brought to our school, and we look forward to using them as a resource in the future. Any organization would be privileged to have them volunteer for them.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Woodward